



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

NEWS...

Issue #1, October 1997

First Issue -- Take a Look!!

What is the CALFED Bay-Delta Program? If you haven't heard about us yet, you will very soon. CALFED is a joint state-federal effort to address the water management and environmental problems associated with California's Bay-Delta system. After more than two years of intense technical work, the Program is about to bring forth a draft proposed solution. The decisions to be made over the next several months will affect every Californian. Want to know more? Read on.

What Is CALFED?

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program was initiated in 1995 by Governor Pete Wilson and the Clinton Administration to address environmental and water management problems associated with the Bay-Delta system, an intricate web of waterways created at the junction of the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and the watershed that feeds them.

Today the Bay-Delta system is in serious trouble:

- Habitats are declining.
- Some native species are listed as endangered.
- The system has suffered from impaired water quality.
- Water supply reliability has declined significantly.
- Many levees are structurally weak and are at risk of failure.

The Bay-Delta is a critically important part of California's natural environment and economy. It supplies drinking water for more than 22 million Californians and irrigation water for more than four million acres of the world's most productive farmland, which, for example, produce 45 percent of the nation's fruits and vegetables. It supports 120 fish and wildlife species; some found nowhere else on the planet.

Where Are We Now?

CALFED is preparing to release a draft programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement. This document will outline the work to date on the problems associated with the Bay-Delta and a conceptual solution. It will be up to the people of California to tell CALFED about the issues they feel are important for an equitable, affordable and implementable Bay-Delta solution.

What's News

- ✓ What's CALFED?
- ✓ Where Are We Now?
- ✓ Scientific Review Panel
- ✓ Upcoming Public Meetings

Experts Review Progress of Restoration Plan Draft

Recently, a panel of scientific experts from throughout the country gathered for a four-day work session in Sacramento to review CALFED's draft Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan, a comprehensive framework for improving the environment of the Bay-Delta system. The ERPP is one component of what will eventually be released for public review as a draft Bay-Delta solution. Ecosystem restoration is one of four common programs included in the CALFED process. The other three are water use efficiency, water quality and levee system integrity. The panelists -- whose specialties include aquatic biology, fisheries, hydrology, conservation biology and botany -- made recommendations to CALFED staff based on their expertise and specific experience in other parts of the country. According to CALFED Executive Director Lester Snow, the independent analysis offered by the Scientific Review Panel is an important step in the process, which also includes technical experts from participating state and federal agencies and interested members of the public who have participated in the development of the ERPP. The draft ERPP has been released in stages, as it has been developed, to enable interested members of the public to review it and make comments about issues they feel are important. It is still available for public review, and will be included in the draft programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement to be released for public comment in early 1998. To obtain a copy of the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan, call (916) 657-2666.

Upcoming Public Meetings

CALFED recently announced it will host eight public

meetings throughout California. This is your opportunity to learn about the Program's work and get involved in solving the problems of the Bay-Delta. Each meeting will feature an informal, open-house session during which you can browse displays and informational materials or talk one-on-one with Program staff, followed by a general presentation about the Program.

Schedule*

October 28	Taylorsville, Indian Valley Grange, Main Street
November 4	Walnut Grove Jean Harvie Community Center, 14273 River Rd.
November 6	Bay Area Commonwealth Club, 595 Market St., San Francisco
November 12	Fresno Ramada Inn 324 E. Shaw Ave.
November 18	Santa Barbara Radisson Hotel 111 E. Cabrillo Blvd.
December 3	Los Angeles Area Pasadena Holiday Inn 303 E. Cordova St.
December 4	San Diego Vacation Inn, 3900 Old Town Ave.
December 9	Chico Durham Memorial Hall Faber & Midway

*** All meetings start with an open house at 5:30 p.m., followed by a general presentation at 7 p.m.**



